Sir Real's

UNDERGROUND COMIX CLASSIX

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Comments:

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

CEREBUS

22
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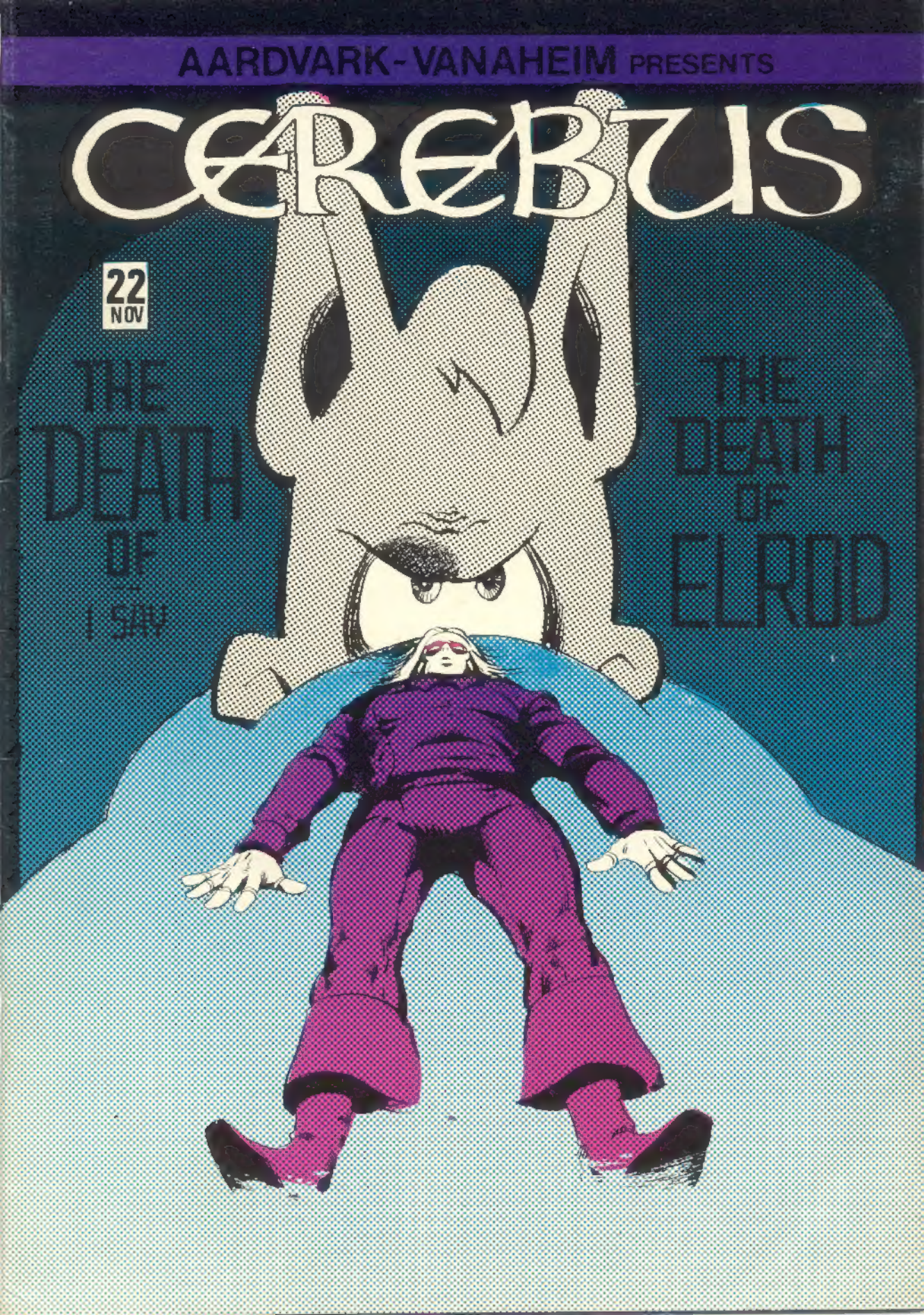
THE DEATH OF I SAW

THE DEATH OF ELROD



CEREBUS

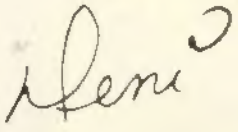
A Note from the Publisher

Well - here I am writing my 22nd last-minute editorial. Dave is gone to Ottawa (**our** nation's capital) for a three-day convention there called MapleCon. Being the true-blue Canadian that I am, I'm writing this while watching a Toronto-Calgary hockey game. Ah - it's so easy to know when winter is approaching.

I have had less to do with this issue than usual, as I have been sick for the last two weeks. (Is this beginning to sound familiar?) Dave has been working really hard this issue, and I must admit I see more of Dave peeking thru Cerebus' personality in this issue than in any previous ones.

I've been hearing a fair number of rumors that Cerebus is hard to find in some places. If you live in a town where this is so, please let us know. By this I mean, let me know the name of the shop and its address. Our distributors have increased their orders - but they can't get them there if no one lets us know where they need them. It's not always easy to know where distribution is and isn't going. I would appreciate all the help you can give.

Being as this issue is the second half of the story that began last issue, I think that I'll just quietly fade away behind my accounts book. I invite you to join Cerebus and his seemingly endless quest for the thing that little aardvarks dreams are made of ... gold!!



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the DEATH of ELROD
SYNOPSIS: CEREBUS LIES SPRAWLED IN THE SNOW, AS CAPTAIN COCKROACH AND BUNKY COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT IT IS DEFINITELY ADVISABLE THAT THEY PREPARE TO IMMEDIATELY TAKE THE NEXT STEP, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS...
AS DANGER LOOMS NEARBY...
...BUNKY (AKA ELROD) SUGGESTS A BOLD PLAN...
HOWZABOUT YOU TURN YOURSELF IN IF THEY PROMISE NOT TO HURT ME?
YOU'RE PANICKING FOR NO REASON, OLD CHUM -- WE HAVE TO AID OUR LITTLE GRAY WOUNDED WINO...

AND THAT MEANS KEEPING THE VICTIM WARM...
WE HAVE TO FIND SOMETHING TO COVER HIM WITH...
NO NO, BUNKY!
I MEANT A BLANKET OR SOMETHING
PUMPF.
C'MON, BUNKY
YOU KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO CROUCH IN THESE BUILT-UP BOOTS...
GET UP!
BUNKY!
YOU WANT ME TO LAUGH, HUH? YOU WANT TO BE A COMEDIAN?
IS THAT IT?
I'M LAUGHING OKAY?
HA. HA. HA.
OKAY? IS THAT E...
...NOUGH?
YEECHHH!
PLOP
YOU!
...YOU...
...KILLED...
...BUNKY!

YOU DARE TO FACE THE WRATH OF CAPTAIN COCKROACH, eh? I ADOPTED THAT BOY WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE KILLED BY RED CLAN ACROBATS ... *
I TAUGHT HIM HOW TO HANG TOUGH -- HOW TO BREAK A MAN'S NECK WITH JUST HIS BARE HANDS AND A CROW-BAR! AND NOW -- "THANKS" TO YOU -- I HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER ADOLESCENT WITH AN UNHEALTHY NEED FOR CLOSE MALE COMPANIONSHIP AND START -ALL-OVER-AGAIN-FROM-SCRA-
CRAK
-UNGG!
HAA!...
...YHO!
* LIVES IN A WORLD ALL HIS OWN, FOLKS...
OOOLPH!
YHO!
HAA!...
GOOMPH!
HAA!
THIS...IS...YOUR LAST WANT CHANCE
...GIVE... UP...? HSIFFY?
uh?
WELL, DEEP-FRY MY CORNBREAD ...
I -- I SAY -- I CAN BREATHE AGAIN..

BUNKY?
IS IT REALLY YOU...?
REALLY AND TRULY?
BUNKY? BUNKY IS FACE DOWN IN THE SNOW, SON--I'VE--I SAY, I'VE TRADED IN MY RUGGED GOOD LOOKS AND SENSITIVE DEMEANOR FOR A NEAR MONOPOLY IN THE MUSCLE MARKET...
I NEED A NEW NAME THAT FITS MY NEW IMAGE--SOMETHING WITH PANACHE--LIKE DEADALBINO!
DEADALBINO?
"DEADALBINO--STRUCK DOWN BY A COWARDLY HSIFFY..."
"DEADALBINO--WHO CAME BACK FROM THE GRAVE BEFORE HE WAS EVEN BURIED..."
"DEADALBINO! WHO FOUND HIMSELF WANDERING AWAY FROM THE SCENE OF HIS OWN MURDER"
"DEADALBINO! WHO FOUND THAT HE WAS NO LONGER QUITE ALL THERE (PHYSICALLY, THAT IS)..."
"DEADALBINO! WHO, DESPITE THE TRAUMA OF BEING DEAD..."
"RETURNED TO SAVE THE LIFE OF HIS IDOL, GUARDIAN AND KEEPER..."
DESIST!
UNHAND THAT BUG, SUH!
YOU'RE--I SAY--YOU'RE DAMAGING MY MEAL TICKET!

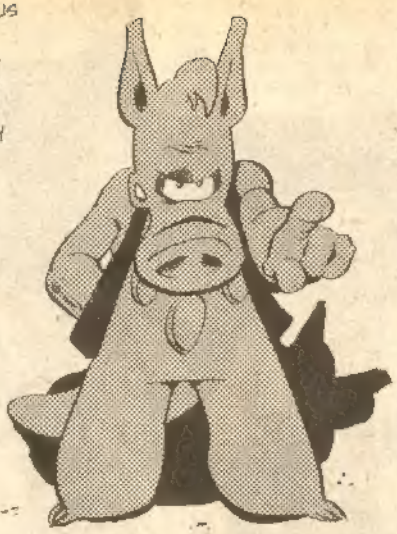
"DEADALBINO! WHO DISCOVERED HE HAD THE ABILITY TO MAKE HUMAN BEINGS SUBLET THEIR BODIES..."
DON'T PLAY DUMB WITH ME, SON -- I WANT TO KNOW WHY YOU'RE TRYING TO DISLOCATE THIS MAN'S BODY -- IT'S --
JUST, I MIGHT ADD, IN TIME TO SAVE YOU FROM GETTING A CUSTOM-DENTED SCALP...
WHA... I SAY... WHA..?!
JUST THINK, SON, WHAT TWO MUSCULAR TYPES LIKE US COULD EARN! -- WHY, TAG-TEAM WRESTLING ALONE...
HUNH!
ALL I CAN SAY IS, IF I FOUND MYSELF IN THE BODY OF A HSIFAN, I'D DO THE ONLY HONORABLE THING...
...I'D KILL MYSELF!
YOU'VE GOT A POINT THERE, SON, BUT MAYBE I SHOULD FIND OUT IF THE PRESIDENT WANTS ME TO CHOP ANY FIREWOOD WITH MY BARE HANDS OR SOMETHING...
...BEFORE I GO FALLING ON ANY SWORDS
WELL, LET'S GO ASK HIM...
WAITAMINNIT, SON -- WE'VE GOT SOME STUFF HERE THAT SIMPLY -- I SAY -- SIMPLY HAS TO COME WITH US...
MY BODY, FOR ONE...
WHY? YOU'RE NOT USING IT...
SENTIMENTAL ATTACHMENT -- I WAS IN THAT BODY ALMOST CONSTANTLY SINCE THE DAY I WAS BORN...
WE'LL MAKE A DEAL, SON -- I'LL CARRY MY TALL, THIN AND WHITE EX-SELF...
AND Y'ALL CAN CARRY PUNCH, THE WONDER BUNNY, HERE!

AMAZING! AND YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW IT HAPPENED...
NOT- I SAY-- NOT EVEN A CLUE...
AHEM!
LOOKS LIKE CEREBUS IS COMING AROUND...
WELL, I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD FILL YOU IN ON WHAT YOU MISSED
THEN WE'LL HAVE TO WORK ON A WAY TO MAKE USE OF THIS...
CEREBUS IS NOT LISTENING...
BUT SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED-- SURELY YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW WHY YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?...
WATCH MY LIPS, MR. PRESIDENT
CEREBUS-IS-NOT-LISTENING
CEREBUS IS GOING TO GET UP, WALK OUT THAT DOOR AND ESCAPE FROM THIS STUPID CITY
LOOK -- THERE'S CAPTAIN COCKROACH STANDING NEXT TO A SOPAI ASSASSIN -- DOES CEREBUS WANT AN EXPLANATION? NO!
CEREBUS HAS HAD IT UP TO HERE WITH LONG-WINDED EXPLANATIONS -- EVERY TIME HE LISTENS TO ONE HE ENDS UP SNOUT-DEEP IN SOMEONE ELSE'S MESS...
YOU CAN FILL THIS ROOM WITH SOPAI ASSASSINS, SEVEN-FOOT COOTIES, GREEN BEARS AND DANCING BOREALANS IF YOU WANT TO
CEREBUS IS LEAVING...
WELL, Y'ALL BE SURE TO WRITE IF YOU GET WORK, SON...
NGGHHH
HEH HEH HEH...
THE SOPAI ASSASSIN HAS ELROD'S VOICE.
A NICE TRY
YOU ALMOST HAD CEREBUS THERE...
BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK!! ASK CEREBUS WHY IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK...
WHY IS IT NOT GOING TO WORK?
BECAUSE CEREBUS HAS A WAR WAITING FOR HIM...

THAT'S RIGHT--A WAR! CEREBUS IS ALLIED WITH A WELL-ORGANIZED AND HEAVILY-ARMED BAND OF *T'GITANS!* ON CONCORDANCE EVE WE'RE GOING TO MARCH ON THE CITY OF PALNU AND SMASH IT INTO *SUBMISSION*...

WITH THAT ANCIENT CITY AS A BASE AND USING ITS WEALTH AS PAY FOR THE FINEST MERCENARIES, WE'RE GOING TO PROVE THAT THESE DAMNED SOUTHLAND SOLDIERS WILL FALL LIKE MATCH-STICKS WHEN FACED WITH A REAL ARMY

AN ARMY THAT DOESN'T WHINE IF YOU DON'T STOP EVERY FEW MILES FOR HOT CHOCOLATE AND MARSHMALLOWS...

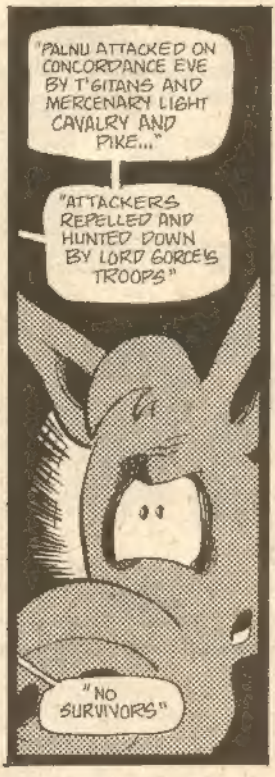


BEDUIN IS RIPE FOR THE TAKING--AND CEREBUS ISN'T TALKING ABOUT IDIOTIC PAMPHLETS AND SIDE-SHOW STRONGMEN -WHEN *WE* TAKE BEDUIN, IT WILL BE BY FORCE-OF-ARMS...

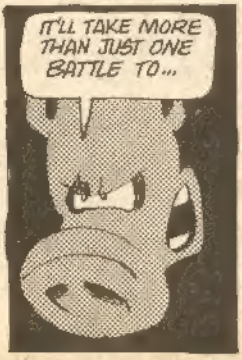
YOU SOUTHLANDERS TALK AND TALK AND TALK! SAY WHAT YOU WILL ABOUT T'GITANS--THEY SMELL BAD, THEY HAVE NO TABLE MANNERS--BUT, BY TARIM AT LEAST THEY DON'T SPEND EVERY WAKING MINUTE FILLING THE AIR AROUND THEM WITH *BLOODY WORDS!*

SO, YOU TAKE YOUR PHILOSOPHERS AND YOUR MAGISTRATES AND YOUR PRIESTS AND YOUR CLERKS AND YOUR MERCHANTS AND YOU PILE THEM SIX DEEP AROUND THE CITY WALLS BECAUSE WHEN WE *DO* ATTACK THAT'S ABOUT ALL THEY'RE GOING TO BE GOOD FOR...

IT'S NOT THAT *CEREBUS* HAS ANYTHING AGAINST WEAK-WILLED, OVER-EDUCATED, SNIVELLING CITY-DWELLERS *PERSONALLY*, IT'S JUST THAT...
uh...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MILITARY REPORTS FOR THE LAST MONTH
AH!


"PALNU ATTACKED ON CONCORDANCE EVE BY T'GITANS AND MERCENARY LIGHT CAVALRY AND PIKE..."
"ATTACKERS REPELLED AND HUNTED DOWN BY LORD GORCE'S TROOPS"
"NO SURVIVORS"

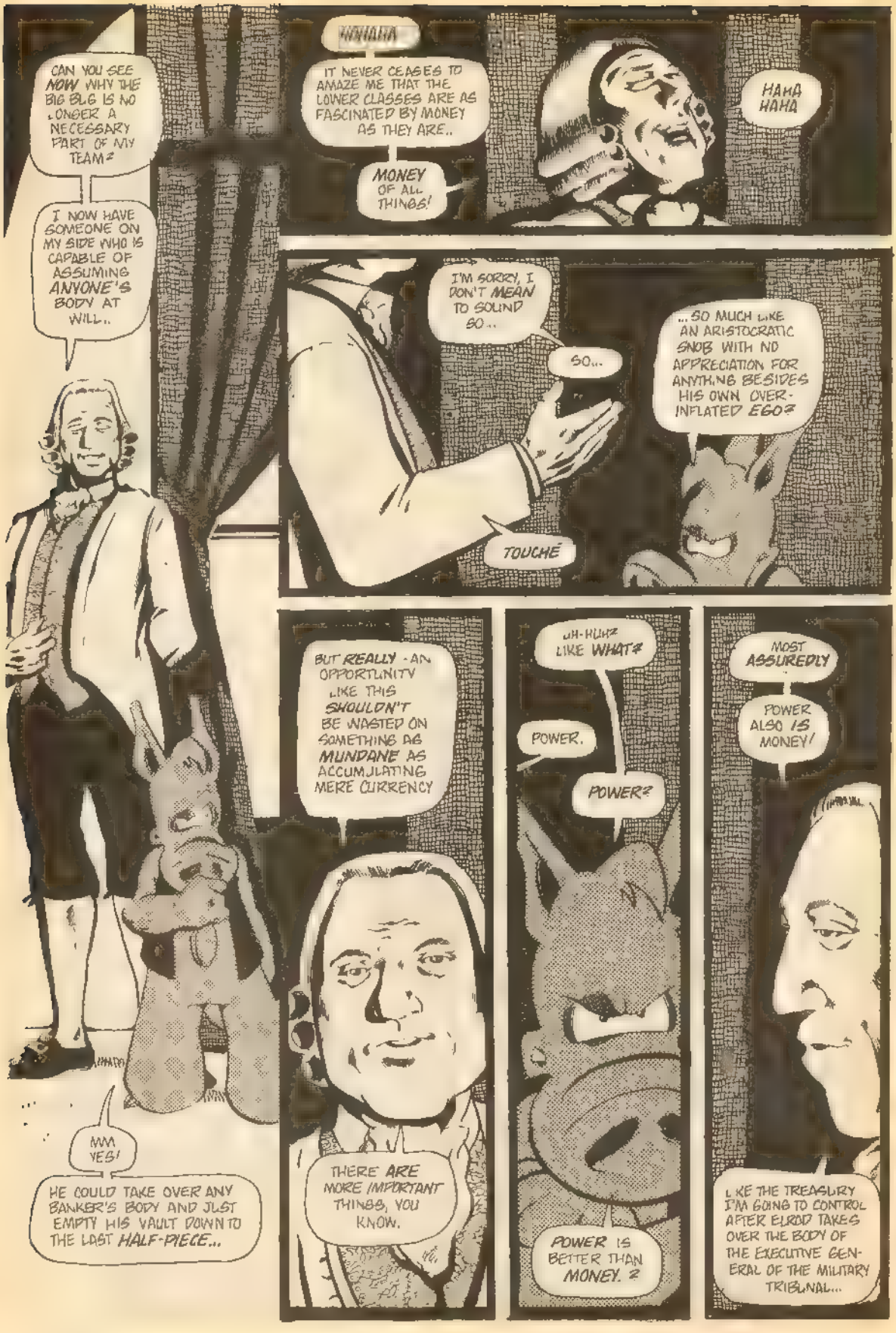
CONCORDANCE EVE WAS SOME WEEKS AGO...
IT WOULD APPEAR THAT YOU WERE DRUGGED A LITTLE MORE THOROUGHLY THAN YOU FIRST *THOUGHT*...



NOW THAT WE'RE ALL UP-TO-DATE ON OUR PRESENT SITUATION...
I THINK WE SHOULD EXAMINE OUR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES AND DETERMINE HOW WE CAN BEST UTILIZE THEM IN THE NEAR FUTURE..
AS WELL AS DETERMINING A LONG-RANGE FORECAST OF OUR OBJECTIVES...
MR. PRESIDENT, I THINK THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS SHOULD BE THE EXECUTION OF ANY HSIFFIES PRESENT IN THIS ROOM..
AS A SECURITY PRECAUTION
ACTUALLY, MR. PRESIDENT-- THE BEE-YOU-GEE IS JUST A LITTLE AITCH-YOU-ARE TEE ABOUT ME BEE-EE-AY TEEING HIM TO A PEE-YOU-EL-PEE..
THAT'S A LIE!
YOU--I SAY - YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I SAID, SON...
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU SAID YOU LIE AL THE TIME!!
OH, YEAH?!
TARIM
FOR YOUR INFORMATION I JUST TOLD THE PRESIDENT THAT YOU'RE FEELING SORRY FOR YOURSELF BECAUSE A HSIFFY BEAT YOU UP - PULVERIZED YOU THAT IS..
BEAT ME UP?!
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I WAS JUST ABOUT TO WHUP HIM WHEN YOU BUTTED IN...!
WHAT I SAY- WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO DO? BREAK HIS FOOT WITH YOUR SKULL?

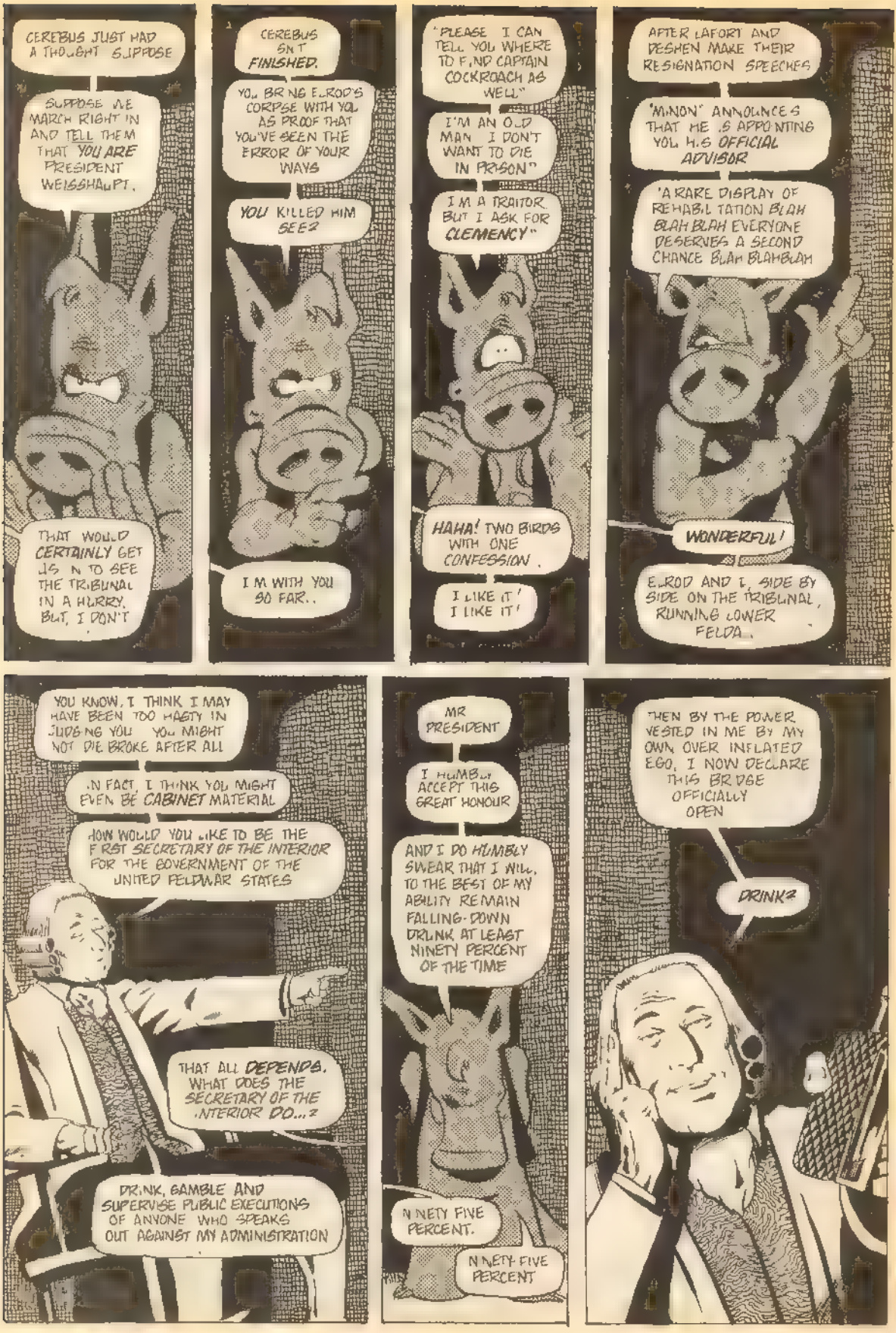
LET'S I SAY LET'S NOT ARGUE, SON. YOU WANT ANOTHER CHANCE TO FIGHT THE HSIFFY?
HAMA QUA'...
* WHAT TH'
HAIII!!
OH NO
THERE! LET'S SEE HIM GET OUT OF THIS ONE.
YOU
YOU'RE INSIDE CEREBUS NOW
SLAP KICK
GOUGE PUMMEL
YAAAGGHONOW
NO
WELL, FRICASEE MY RUMP ROAST
YOU'RE RIGHT!
WO CRAAK
WIUMP SMASH
TRAK
LOOK- I SAY LOOK AT ME NOW- I'M THE PRESIDENT!
WAK THUMP RUF
UH HUH
HOW ABOUT STRAIGHTENING THOSE TWO OUT BEFORE THEY STAIN YOUR CARPET, MR PRES DENTZ
MM GOOD IDEA
I THINK I MADE MY POINT
SQUEE!
WHINE
SNIVEL

EASY. I SAY EASY SON.
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU CAME IN THIRD IN A HATCHET FIGHT..
THANKS, BUNKY OLD CHUM - WHERE'S THAT HSIFFY CREEP?
DISAPPEARED, EH? COULDN'T TAKE IT, EH?
HEHEH HEHHEH =KOFF= =KOFF=
S'GOOD THING
I WAS STARTING TO GET PEEVED
CAPTAIN?
YES MR PRESIDENT
YOU KNOW THE DRAPERIES IN THE UPSTAIRS STUDY?
OH YESSIR MR PRESIDENT
BE A GOOD CHAP AND GO WATCH THEM FOR AWHILE
MAKE SURE THEY DON'T EAT THE HOUSE PLANTS
OH YESSIR MR PRESIDENT SIR.
I'LL GET RIGHT ON IT, SIR.
RIGHT AWAY
YUP
NO HSIFFY DRAPES ARE GOING TO EAT THE HOUSEPLANTS WHILE I'M IN CHARGE
NOSIREE MR. PRESIDENT, SIR...
CALL'T A CRAZY HUNCH BUT CEREBUS DOESN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE DRAPES EATING YOUR HOUSE PLANTS.
A MORE SENSIBLE STORY WOULD ONLY HAVE MADE HIS HEAD HURT...
EH DO YOU REALIZE ELROD JUST NOW TOOK OVER YOUR BODY AS WELL?
HMM I RATHER THOUGHT NOT


CAN YOU SEE NOW WHY THE BIG BUG IS NO LONGER A NECESSARY PART OF MY TEAM?
I NOW HAVE SOMEONE ON MY SIDE WHO IS CAPABLE OF ASSUMING ANYONE'S BODY AT WILL..
MM YES!
HE COULD TAKE OVER ANY BANKER'S BODY AND JUST EMPTY HIS VAULT DOWN TO THE LAST HALF-PIECE...
MWAHA
IT NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME THAT THE LOWER CLASSES ARE AS FASCINATED BY MONEY AS THEY ARE..
MONEY OF ALL THINGS!
HAHA HAHA
I'M SORRY, I DON'T MEAN TO SOUND SO...
SO...
...SO MUCH LIKE AN ARISTOCRATIC SNOB WITH NO APPRECIATION FOR ANYTHING BESIDES HIS OWN OVER-INFLATED EGO?
TOUCHÉ
BUT REALLY - AN OPPORTUNITY LIKE THIS SHOULDN'T BE WASTED ON SOMETHING AS MUNDANE AS ACCUMULATING MERE CURRENCY
THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS, YOU KNOW.
UH-HUH? LIKE WHAT?
POWER.
POWER?
POWER IS BETTER THAN MONEY. 2
MOST ASSUREDLY
POWER ALSO IS MONEY!
LIKE THE TREASURY I'M GOING TO CONTROL AFTER ELROD TAKES OVER THE BODY OF THE EXECUTIVE GENERAL OF THE MILITARY TRIBUNAL...

AHA! CERBERUS UNDERSTANDS NOW!
IT WOULD BEAT SENDING FRICK AND FRACK OUT TO SELL WAR BONDS. WOULDN'T IT?
AND IT WOULD GET THE TRIBUNAL OFF OF MY BACK, PERMANENTLY
BUT THE TRIBUNA. IS MADE UP OF FIVE MEN..
WHAT'S TO KEEP THEM FROM OUT-VOTING WHOMEVER ELROD TAKES OVER?
NOW YOU'RE LETTING PETTY DETAILS BOG YOU DOWN...
THAT'S WHY I'M WEALTHY AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED FELDWAR STATES..
AND ALL YOU'LL EVER BE IS POOR AND A SWORD-FOR-HIRE..
WE FIRST GET ELROD TO TAKE OVER THE BODY OF EXECUTIVE COMMANDER LAFORT, WHO WILL ADMIT TO HIS ROLE IN THE SEDRAN LAMP-OIL PAYOFF SCANDAL...
AND RESIGN
BUT THAT LEAVES FOUR MEMBERS WHO
THREE
THREE?
AS SOON AS LAFORT IS CARTED OFF TO PRISON SECOND GENERAL DESHEN WILL BE SO MOVED BY THIS SHOW OF HONESTY...
THAT HE WILL ADMIT TO HIS PART IN THE KEVILLIST REBELLION FIVE YEARS AGO.
AND RESIGN AS WELL?
PRECISELY.

BUT, THAT STILL LEAVES THREE MEMBERS
WHAT THEN?
THEY'RE ALL SCANDAL-FREE AREN'T THEY?
AS FAR AS I KNOW THEY ARE...
GENERAL MINON, HOWEVER, HAS FORMER EXECUTIVE COMMANDER SERET UNDER HIS THUMB..
IF MINON PROPOSED A MOTION RECOMMENDING THAT SERET COMMIT SUICIDE, SERET WOULD SECOND IT...
SO?
SO THEN ELROD TAKES OVER MINON'S BODY ANYTHING HE PROPOSES WILL PASS WITH SERET'S WILLING ACQUIESCENCE
GENERAL CHEEN WILL BE THE ONLY DISSENTING MEMBER
AND I'LL RULE LOWER FELPA..
NEAT VERY NEAT
I KNOW AMAZING AREN'T I?
WAIT - I SAY - WAIT JUST A FLEA-FLICKIN' MINUTE HERE. ALL I'VE HEARD IS "ELROD'LL DO THIS" AND "ELROD'LL DO THAT"
DOESN'T I SAY DOESN'T ANYONE WANT TO HEAR WHAT DEAD ALBINO HAS TO SAY?
NOT ESPECIALLY.
WHY NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT WE NEED A PLAN TO GET US PAST THE TWO ADENDA SECRETARIES
AFTER ALL, YOU CAN'T TAKE OVER BOTH BODIES AT ONE TIME!
IT WOULD BE A GREAT HELP IF YOU COULD FIGURE SOME THING OUT..
UH...
WELL - UM - UH - GET US PAST THE ADENDUM SECRETARIES? -- I YEAH.. I CAN SEE HOW THAT WOULD UH.
HMM
I'D SURE -- I SAY I'D SURE LIKE TO BE USEFUL
USEFUL, EH?
IF YOU WEREN'T SO LUMPY, YOU MIGHT MAKE A HALF-DECENT SOFA..


CEREBUS JUST HAD A THOUGHT SUPPOSE
SUPPOSE WE MARCH RIGHT IN AND TELL THEM THAT YOU ARE PRESIDENT WEISSHAUPT.
THAT WOULD CERTAINLY GET US IN TO SEE THE TRIBUNAL IN A HURRY. BUT, I DON'T
CEREBUS ISN'T FINISHED.
YOU BRING ELROD'S CORPSE WITH YOU AS PROOF THAT YOU'VE SEEN THE ERROR OF YOUR WAYS
YOU KILLED HIM SEE?
I'M WITH YOU SO FAR..
"PLEASE I CAN TELL YOU WHERE TO FIND CAPTAIN COCKROACH AS WELL"
I'M AN OLD MAN I DON'T WANT TO DIE IN PRISON"
I'M A TRAITOR BUT I ASK FOR CLEMENCY"
HAHA! TWO BIRDS WITH ONE CONFESSION.
I LIKE IT! I LIKE IT!
AFTER LAFORT AND DESHEN MAKE THEIR RESIGNATION SPEECHES
"MINION" ANNOUNCES THAT HE IS APPOINTING YOU H.S OFFICIAL ADVISOR
"A RARE DISPLAY OF REHABILITATION BLAH BLAH BLAH EVERYONE DESERVES A SECOND CHANCE BLAH BLAHBLAH
WONDERFUL!
ELROD AND I, SIDE BY SIDE ON THE TRIBUNAL, RUNNING LOWER FELDA.
YOU KNOW, I THINK I MAY HAVE BEEN TOO HASTY IN JUDGING YOU YOU MIGHT NOT DIE BROKE AFTER ALL
IN FACT, I THINK YOU MIGHT EVEN BE CABINET MATERIAL
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE THE FIRST SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED FELDMAR STATES
THAT ALL DEPENDS. WHAT DOES THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR DO...?
DRINK, GAMBLE AND SUPERVISE PUBLIC EXECUTIONS OF ANYONE WHO SPEAKS OUT AGAINST MY ADMINISTRATION
MR PRESIDENT
I HUMBLY ACCEPT THIS GREAT HONOUR
AND I DO HUMBLY SWEAR THAT I WILL, TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY REMAIN FALLING-DOWN DRUNK AT LEAST NINETY PERCENT OF THE TIME
NINETY FIVE PERCENT.
NINETY-FIVE PERCENT
THEN BY THE POWER VESTED IN ME BY MY OWN OVER INFLATED EGO, I NOW DECLARE THIS BRIDGE OFFICIALLY OPEN
DRINK?

MY FRIENDS-- IT IS MY SAD DUTY ON THIS OCCASION, AS YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMANDER FOR ME, TO TAKE... THIS... OPPORTUN TY.. TO EXPRESS MY.. DEEPEST REGRET... THAT I MUST TAKE, FULL.. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACTIONS .. OF MY BROTHER... IN THE .....RECENT, SEPRAN LAMP-OIL... PAYOFF... SCANDAL.. NOT ONLY DID I... TELL MY BROTHER THAT SUCH ACTIONS AS HE TOOK.. AT THAT TIME ...WAS NOT IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST BUT..THAT IN FACT THERE EXISTED A REAL POSSIBILITY THAT BOTH HE... AND I...WOULD BE CAUGHT WITH OUR HANDS...IN THE COOKIE JAR...UP TO OUR RESPECTIVE ...ELBOWS..
AMAZING!
NO EXPRESSION, NO COHERENCE AND SYNTAX YOU COULD SPEND A LIFETIME UNRAVELLING...
HE'S SO MUCH LIKE THE ORIG.NAL IT'S ALMOST SCARY...
MY FELLOW LOWER F.E. DANS
I WOULD LIKE TO ADD A FEW WORDS TO WHAT MY.. "COLLEAGUE" HAS ALREADY STATED..
I AM NOT A CROOK
I AM, HOWEVER, A SLEAZY NO-ACCOUNT OPPORTUNIST AND A BOUGHT AND-PAID-FOR POLITICAL HACK..
I MAY NOT HAVE STARTED THAT KEV.LL ST REBELLION FIVE YEARS AGO..
BUT IF I DIDN'T, IT WAS ONE OF ONLY A HANDFUL OF MAJOR SCANDALS I DIDN'T TAKE PART IN AT THAT TIME...
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING YET.
WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON HIS "DESHEN"
NO, NO! MORE SCOWL!
ANGER! GIVE ME ANGER AND BITTERNESS
ANGER, BITTERNESS AND PARANOIA!
GOOD! GOOD!
IT S...FOR THIS REASON...THAT I INTEND..FOR REASONS PREVIOUSLY STATED TO RES GN..EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY THIS ...POSITION
I ASK...NOW...THAT THE GUARDS COME ...AND TAKE.. ME ..AWAY...
I WOULD ASK NOW THAT THE GUARDS COME AND TAKE ME AWAY, AS WELL
AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED
HANGING'S TOO GOOD FOR ME!

I THINK HE'S READY
I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT
AND SO...
I DON'T WANT YOU TO TAKE THIS THE WRONG WAY BUT I THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU LET ME DO THE TALKING
CEREBUS DOESN'T MIND TALKING TO BUREAUCRATS MAKES HIM NAUSEOUS
ELROD ISN'T TOO HEAVY, I HOPE.
NOT IN THE LEAST
HE'S GETTING STIFF ENOUGH THAT IT'S LIKE CARRYING A PLASTER STATUE
MOST ESTEEMED AGENDA SECRETARY NEEKAK.
I AM PRESIDENT WEISSHAUPT, TRAITOR, ROGUE AND UNWORTHY SON OF OUR MOTHER LAND
I HAVE BROUGHT THE CORPSE OF BUNKY THE ALBINO AS A GESTURE OF MY SINCERE REGRET...
I WISH TO APPEAR BEFORE THE TRIBUNAL TO SUBMIT MYSELF TO THEIR JUDGEMENT
THIS COMES AS QUITE A SURPRISE, WEISSHAUPT

YOU REALIZE, OF COURSE, THAT THE TRIBUNAL IS NOT LIKELY TO VIEW YOUR CASE WITH ANY MEASURE OF, COMPASSION.
I FEEL, SIR, THAT MY SINCERITY AND MY INTENTION TO SURRENDER CAPTAIN COCKROACH TO THEM WILL CONVINCE THE TRIBUNAL OF MY NEWFOUND PATRIOTISM
PSST
PSST CEREBUS
WHAT IN BLAZES ARE YOU DOING IN THERE?
I JUST THOUGHT I'D SEE IF IT STILL FELT THE SAME
VERY WELL EXECUTIVE COMMANDER LAFORT WILL BE NOTIFIED OF YOUR REQUEST
GUARD TAKE THIS NOTE INSIDE..
WELL, GET OUT OF THERE NOW! YOU'RE GOING TO RUIN OUR WHOLE PLAN
I CAN'T!
YOU WHAT!?!
I'M STUCK
SO!
AS I SUSPECTED! THIS IS SOME MANNER OF IDIOTIC TRICK!!
GUARD! ARREST THEM ALL!

HERE!
CEREBUS DOESN'T NEED THIS ANYMORE
YAAA
OOOMPF!!
GUARDS! GUARDS!
STOP THOSE TRAITORS!!
OR I'LL HAVE YOUR HEADS!
KEEP GOING! IF WE STOP NOW, THEY'LL CATCH US!
YOUR ABILITY TO FIND THE RIGHT COURSE OF ACTION IN ANY SITUATION IS TRULY AMAZING, MR PRESIDENT
IS OKAY
THOSE ARE TRIBUNAL GUARDS
THEY HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO ARREST ANYONE OUTSIDE THE TRIBUNAL BUILDING
GOOD
YOU GO BACK AND TELL THEM THEY'RE NOT PLAYING BY THE RULES

FOR >PUFF< TARIN'S SAKE! I >PANT< THOUGHT ALL >PUFF< YOU >PANT< BARBARIAN TYPES >GASP<
KNEW >PUFF< OF GOOD HIDING >PUFF< PLACES I CAN'T >PUFF: RUN LIKE THIS >GASP< FOREVER
>GASP<
>GASP< IS IT
>GASP< ..MUCH..
>GASP<
FARTH
UNNH
WOULD >GASP<
YOU >GASP<
WARN >GASP<
ME >GASP<
WHEN >GASP<
YOU DO >GASP<
THAT >GASP<
>GASP<
>GASP<
>GASP<
>GASP<

I'M
=GASP=
I'M
=GASP=
STILL HERE
WHERE DO WE =GASP=
GO NOW?
WELL OFFHAND, I'D SAY YOU WERE GOING TO PRISON
WHILE CEREBUS IS
UNH!
GOING TO
UNH!
SQUEEZE BETWEEN THESE RAILS
AND USE YOUR FORGED PAPERS
TO PASS THROUGH THE EAST GATE ONE BLOCK THAT WAY
BUT BUT YOU CAN'T!
YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME HERE!
I COULDN'T POSSIBLY BEAT FOUR ARMED GUARDS SINGLE-HANDED!
THIS IS TRUE...
CEREBUS COULD
BUT, LIKE YOU SAID
CEREBUS WILL NEVER BE ANYTHING MORE THAN A SWORD FOR HIRE
WHILE YOU ON THE OTHER HAND
WILL SOON BE THE WEALTHIEST FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED FEDERAL STATES IN DARNIER PRISON

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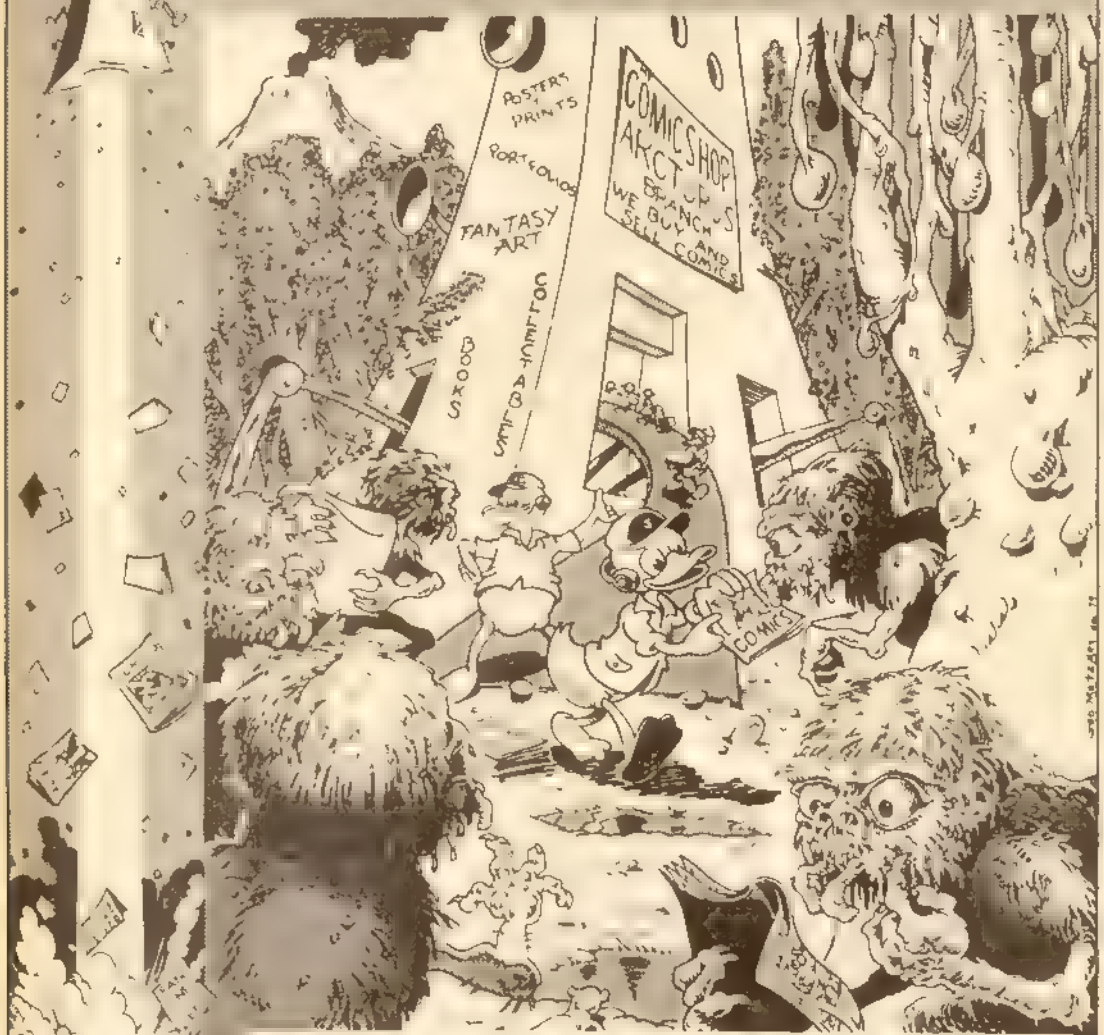

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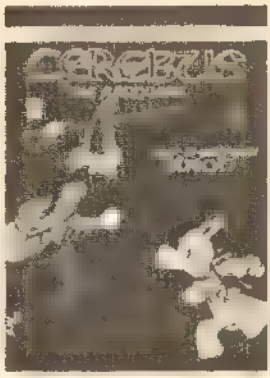

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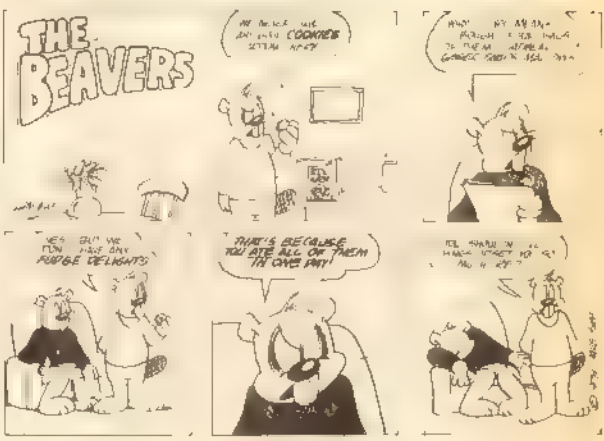

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AARDVARK COMMENT

221 QUEEN ST S. #1401 - KITCHENER-ONTARIO N2G 1W5

Dear Dave

I think CEREBUS is the best comic book published currently. This isn't just another entry in the contest to see who can praise CEREBUS most highly. There isn't any other title that can match CEREBUS for consistently well-written, well-drawn, "original" stories.

I could spend the rest of this letter praising CEREBUS, but I don't think it would interest anybody but you, so ...

Where did you get the name "cerebus" from? From "cerberus" or "cerebral" or a combination of the two? I don't like to criticize CEREBUS, but I have two complaints: First, could you please not end every sentence with three dots, like so. "..." It gets somewhat irritating after a while.

Second, the coloring of your covers is very unappealing in some cases. When you mix black dots with color dots, the result is often a moire pattern that is very unpleasant to look at. However, the quality of the covers is constantly improving. Please take the black tone pattern out of the words "cerebus" on the cover.

I hope your circulation rises, so you can consider publishing CEREBUS weekly! Speaking of weekly things, what happened to the CEREBUS strip in TBG?

When will the reprint of CEREBUS 1-4 appear? How about doing another CEREBUS poster? How about sending a drawing to everyone who sends you a letter (heh, heh)?

I'd like to end this letter with another compliment, but I think my first paragraph would outdo anything else I could say.

Brent Iverson
4131 Frst Markley
1425 Washington Heights
Ann Arbor, Mi.
48104

*Deni mis-spelled Cerebus as the name of her science fiction and fantasy fanzine before I arrived on the scene and the mis-spelling stuck. I was the one who decided that the name referred to A-V's mascot aardvark. I tried ending every sentence with three exclamation marks, but it looked too much like a Marvel comic. I am doing everything in my power to keep moires off of the cover — maybe I'll be perfect next week? (note from Deni ... I have to come to Dave's defense here. Moires are caused because the angle of the screens to differentiate the four colours in the cover have to be at certain **exact** angles. If they are off by only a few degrees, the result is a moire. So, you see, it's no easy thing to do by eye.) The weekly Cerebus strip was a casualty of the monthly schedule I introduced a couple of months after deciding to do it. The reprint of 1-4 will be out as soon as all the material is completed (another casualty of the monthly schedule). If I sent a drawing to everyone who sent in a letter, I'd become a casualty of the monthly schedule.*

Do write again the next time you want to play twenty questions.

• • •

Dear Aardvarkians,

Just a quick note to let you know how much I've enjoyed (enjoy is such a timid word. I need something weightier but my Roget's is across the room) Cerebus. I discovered him, and you, in a comic shop here in State College and am puzzled beyond belief that there isn't more written about your achievement. I believe that I will write Mediascene and The Comic's Journal and hustle them along.

After years of reading rather trite, bland fare and ignoring undergrounds, I am pleased to find that someone has found a happy compromise between the two.

Punchem in the head and may your circulation never falter. I'm gonna pass the news about Cerebus to anyone I know who enjoys good art, great fantasy, and whole-hearted belly laughs. Who cares if my friends think I'm strange for loving an aardvark?

P.S. I'd be very interested in a Cerebus poster if you'd list the price of the damned thing!

Jeff Lang
Nittang 23, Rm. 3
State College, PA
16802

The price of the first Cerebus the Aardvark poster is now an intregal part of the Now and Then Books' ad facing this letters page. Still more evidence that Harry writes all these letters himself and travels around North America mailing them.

• • •

Dear Dave and Deni

I'm a new convert to the Aardvarkian ranks — only picked up my first issue of Cerebus (17) about two months ago. I've really been struck by the little guy, though (no blood yet!). I have been picking up back issues, so I now have 10 of the first 20 issues. Until I read 20, I thought I could (relatively speaking) know what to expect. But number 20 sure was different!!! Also a lot of fun.

AARDVARK COMMENT

221 QUEEN ST S. #1401 - KITCHENER-ONTARIO N2G 1W5

Cerebus 20 had a multitude of funny expressions on our hero. I never knew aardvarks had such expressive faces. Deni, I believe you said in one of your introductory notes that everyone likes something different in Cerebus. What usually makes me laugh the most are the little guy's ears pointing or his eyes. Like I said, very expressive. Dave, you must get some chuckles out of his features too, or you wouldn't go for a cover like this one. A really nice change of pace.

Also, since I'm new to the book, I can more readily see the evolution of your artistic style. It hasn't been brought across slowly to me, but all at once. I'm very glad to see you grow away from your Barry Smith influences, and find your own style. Certain figures in issue 6 in particular looked like Smith's work. You look more comfortable now, in your own style. Well, the bottom of the page is near. Keep up the good work (and belated wishes on your marriage!). You've got one very pleased fan here. Take care!

Wayne Reese
81 Chestnut St.
N. Arlington, N.J.
07032

This is a nice letter. You write very nice letters, Wayne. But just to prove that we don't discriminate against the terminally bizarre, I'm printing the next two letters.

. . .

Dear Dave

I dunno. Maybe it's in my jewish blood. But I'd love to see a character named "Cohen the Barbarian".

I know that's my name, but I swear that it's not an egotistical connection.

Perhaps, one day, Cerebus will meet/greet/team up for an issue with my dream S&S personality. I envision such great Cerebus thoughts as "Cerebus wishes he knew what this dimwit is thinking!"

In any case, I'll continue to buy and read Cerebus until Lord Julius introduces us, the readers, to his brother, Sir Stan of E'Lee.

P.S. If ya didn't get that joke-in-thought, remember: Conan never has thought balloons. 'Nuff said.

Jeffery Cohen
50 Shelley Lane
Great Neck, N.Y.
11023

I know what you mean. Lately I've had this idea for a war title rattling around in my head as a companion to Cerebus called "Frontline Wombat". I won't mess with yours if you don't mess with mine.

. . .

Dear Folks

How about "Cerebral Comments" for a letters-page logo? Or "Cerebrul Sonnets", "Aardvarkian Epistles", "Cerated Sonnets", "Cerated Sonnets to Cerebrus", "Admit it to the Aardvark" and finally (ta da) "Cerebrul comments centered certainly on Cerebrus' cognitive creaters". You make me smile. Many thanks.

Adrian Colston
14 Down Lane
Bathampton, Bath
Avon, England

This would've impressed the hell out of me, if you hadn't spelled Cerebus wrong.

. . .

Dave will be at Creation Con. in Rochester on Nov. 22 & 23, and Atlanta, Georgia in January 10 & 11th.

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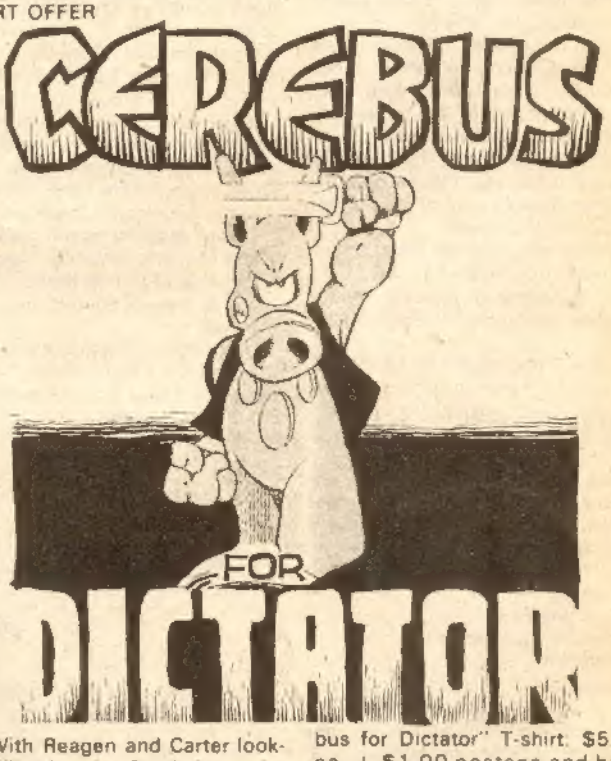

With Reagen and Carter looking like shoo-ins for their nominations, are you considering voting for "None of the above?" Dismayed because Pierre Trudeau has just taken out a twelve year mortgage on 24 Sussex Drive? Have you got the Tweedledee or Tweedledum Blues? Look no further than your nearest Earth-pig. Cerebus lays it all on the line with his campaign for dictator. Any protest from the opposition benches and he'll have them put to the sword. Now you can join the grass-roots movement with your own "Cerebus for Dictator" T-shirt. $5.75 ea. + $1.00 postage and handling (Michigan residents please add 4% sales tax). 10% off for orders of 10 or more. Canadian customers must pay duty upon receipt. Comes in red, orange, yellow, kelly green, cobalt blue and white. S,M,L,XL, please list first and second color choices. Please allow four weeks for delivery. Send orders to: M. Peterson, 1433 White, Ann Arbor, MI, 48104, USA.

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